

states. The bill was passed over his veto.

Attorney General McReynolds' interpretation is said to mean that the federal government is not called upon to enforce a law for the violation of which no penalty is imposed, and that the interstate commerce forbidden by the law is "outlaw" commerce, in regard to which the states are free to apply their statutes.

The attorney general did not attempt to pass upon the constitutionality of the act, and it is believed that this question ultimately may reach the United States supreme court.

Senator Works of California has offered a constitutional amendment to prohibit the "sale, manufacture and importation of distilled liquor containing alcohol, except for mechanical, scientific and medicinal purposes." The amendment would allow three years for adjustment of the liquor business before it became effective. Senator Works said he had become convinced "that the only way to deal effectually with the big traffic is to prohibit the manufacture and importation of liquor."

John L. McNabb, United States district attorney at San Francisco, telegraphed his resignation to President Wilson. Mr. McNabb claimed that the department of justice had tied his hands in the prosecution of the Diggs-Caminetti white slave cases and the indictments against officers of the Western Fuel company. He stated he received orders to postpone acting in these cases by telegraph, in spite of his protests and statement to the attorney general. An Associated Press dispatch says: The Diggs-Caminetti cases arose over Maurice I. Diggs, former state architect, and Drew Caminetti, when they eloped to Reno, Nev., last winter with two high school girls of

Sacramento, leaving their wives and babies behind them. They were brought back to California and indictments found against these men under the Mann white slave act.

A Washington dispatch says Mr. McNabb's resignation will be promptly accepted. Attorney General McReynolds said: "There is every intention to prosecute all those cases. They will be taken care of in due time by capable officers. No interest will suffer by the postponement."

President Wilson has signed the sundry civil appropriation bill. At the same time the president made a statement declaring that he would have vetoed, if he could, the provision in it exempting labor unions and farmers' organizations from prosecution under a certain \$300,000 fund designated for the operation of the Sherman anti-trust law. The president characterized the exemption as "unjustifiable in character and principle," but called attention to the fact that the department of justice possessed other funds with which to enforce the anti-trust law. The urgent need of various government funds appropriated by the bill influenced the president to speed action on the measure. The bill carries \$116,000,000 in appropriations, and was vetoed by Mr. Taft on March 4, because of the labor exemption clause. When the bill was re-introduced and passed by both houses in identical form by the present congress, this provision was the subject of sharp debate.

In his statement the president said:

"I have signed the bill because I can do so without in fact limiting the opportunity of the power of the department of justice to prosecute violations of the law, by whomsoever committed.

"If I could have separated from the rest of the bill the item which

authorized the expenditure by the department of justice of a special sum of \$300,000 for the prosecution of violations of the anti-trust law I would have vetoed that item, because it places upon the expenditure a limitation which in my opinion is unjustifiable in character and principle. But I could not separate it. I do not understand that the limitation was intended as either an amendment or an interpretation of the anti-trust law, but merely as an expression of the opinion of congress—a very emphatic opinion, backed by an overwhelming majority of the house of representatives and a large number of the senate, but not intended to touch anything but the expenditure of a single small additional fund.

"I can assure the country that this item neither will limit nor in any way embrace the actions of the department of justice. Other appropriations supply the department with abundant funds to enforce the law. The law will be interpreted, in the determination of what the department should do by independent and, I hope, impartial judgments, as to the truth and just meaning of the statutes of the United States."

Attorney General McReynolds will make in full a report to President Wilson, at the president's request, on the causes that moved him to direct postponements of the Diggs-Caminetti white slave cases and the trials of two directors of the Western Fuel company, the basis of the resignation of United States Attorney John L. McNabb of San Francisco and his charges against the head of the department of justice.

An Associated Press dispatch says: One of the day's most remarkable developments in the unusual episode was the receipt by the president of a telegram from Clayton Herrington, special agent of the department of justice in charge of the federal bureau of investigation at San Francisco demanding the removal from office of Attorney General McReynolds, Herrington's official superior. Officials declared that the question of summary action in Herrington's case probably would be taken up by the attorney general.

BRIEF AND TO THE POINT

A well known insurance official said he other day at the Auditorium in Chicago:

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"Well, what happened?"

"Mr. Morgan," I began hurriedly, "you ought to carry more life insurance. You see, sir—"

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"How did you get in here?"

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"Well," said he, "walk out."—
New York Tribune.

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